RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp
RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
3:34 PM
2026 APR 28 PM 4:40

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

Certification: *In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

Private Sponsor(s):
South Florida Agricultural Foundation

Travel Dates:
04/07/2026 to 04/10/2026

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$519.63	$280.00	$200.00	$0.00

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- **The final Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

04/28/26
Date

JOSHUA GELLMAN
Printed Name of Traveler

Joshua Gellman
Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

04/28/26
Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

● Yes ○ No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Transportation	$519.63	The bus expense was based on previous tour so the cost was slightly less this time.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

● Yes ○ No

Explanation: We experienced an unprecedented amount of rain before and during the trip making some visits/stops difficult. As a result, on day 2, we departed 30 mins later than planned because we had to go to a different farm location. On day 3, we attempted to do the airboats but the weather was not great so we moved our speakers to the Lawrence E. Will Museum and with our extra time, we were able to visit TKM Packing House.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

● Yes ○ No

Explanation: Reimbursement for transportation to the airport for tour. $14.07

From: Danielle Duffy <Danielle@soflagfoundation.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 12:58 PM
To: Gellman, Joshua (Rick Scott) <Joshua_Gellman@rickscott.senate.gov>
Subject: You're invited on an Ag-venture!

Dear Josh,

The **South Florida Agricultural Foundation, Inc.**, a non-profit organization founded to increase public awareness of South Florida's agricultural industries – including sugarcane, citrus, sweet corn rice, celery and other crops – through educational and stewardship opportunities, is sponsoring a congressional staff trip to our area on **April 7-9**. The purpose of this ***Ag-venture*** is to give staffer an opportunity to tour South Florida's agricultural industry gaining firsthand knowledge of its impact on Florida and the United States.

The Foundation would like to extend an invitation to you to participate in this upcoming trip. I have attached last April's itinerary as we are still working on the upcoming tour, but you can also check out our website at www.soflagfoundation.org, where you can see the educational opportunities staffers had on previous tours.

Tour participants depart from Ronald Reagan National Airport to Palm Beach International Airport where Foundation staff and a chartered bus will meet them. We'll kickoff the tour by traveling west to the Everglades Agricultural Area. There the tour will start with vegetable planting and harvesting operations and will continue to include citrus groves, sugarcane field operations and mil We'll cap the tour off by traveling west to the Everglades Agricultural Area. Then, to end our tour, we'll have an ecological **AIR BOAT TOUR** on Lake Okeechobee, the heart of a number of Florida' water issues. The Foundation will cover the cost of all travel, lodging and meal expenses associated with the trip and will provide all necessary documentation for the Ethics Committee.

Florida is known as a premier tourist destination with its miles of sandy beaches, but few people know of its abundant agricultural interests and its vital role in food production. In the South Florida region, Palm Beach County alone generates nearly one-and-a-half billion dollars in total agricultural sales each year, ranking it among the top ten counties for highest agricultural revenue in the nation. While Florida has three million acres devoted to agriculture, Palm Beach County has more agriculture than any other county with 40% of its land actively farmed. Florida food is exported to 170 different countries to the tune of $4 billion worth of food products.

We hope you will be able to join the Foundation on this fact-finding trip. We believe it will be a worthwhile experience and that you will gain a better understanding of the Florida agricultural industry and other ag-related issues that you work with on a daily basis.

Space is limited, and slots will be filled on a first come, first-served basis. Let us know if you would like to participate in this exciting ***Ag-venture*** and we'll put you at the top of our RSVP list. We'l forward the final itinerary shortly and will have all ethics forms to you prior to the due date of **March 6th**. Feel free to contact us at 202-431-9763 if you have any questions.

*Only recipients of this invitation are able to attend. If you have a referral, please send their name and email. Do not forward this invite.

Hope to see you in April!

<image001.png>

Danielle Duffy
Executive Director
202-431-9763
www.soflagfoundation.org

From: Danielle Duffy <Danielle@soflagfoundation.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 12:58 PM
To: Gellman, Joshua (Rick Scott) <Joshua_Gellman@rickscott.senate.gov>
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Hope to see you in April!

<image001.png>

Danielle Duffy
Executive Director
202-431-9763
www.soflagfoundation.org

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp
2:49 PM;
3/5/26

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220.** Incomplete and late travel submissions will not be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:
JOSHUA GELLMAN

Employing Office/Committee:
SCOTT, RICK

Private Sponsor(s):
South Florida Agricultural Foundation

Destination(s):
Clewiston, Florida

Travel Dates:
04/07/2026 to 04/10/2026
NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

This staff delegation trip through the South Florida Agricultural Foundation provides an opportunity to connect with agricultural leaders and better understand the challenges Florida growers face. The insights gained will help inform my work supporting Florida's constituents and supporting Senator Scott's legislative priorities in representing the state of Florida.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?
No

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
N/A

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

3/5/2026
Date

Joshua Gellman
Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER
(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

I Rick Scott
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize Joshua Gellman
(Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

3/6/26
Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

South Florida Agricultural Foundation: Ag-Venture!

JOSHUA GELLMAN

Title:
South Florida Agricultural Foundation (Ag-Venture)

Employing Office/Committee:
SCOTT, RICK

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):
Clewiston, Florida

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

This staff delegation trip through the South Florida Agricultural Foundation provides an opportunity to connect with agricultural leaders and better understand the challenges Florida growers face. The insights gained will help inform my work supporting Florida's constituents and supporting Senator Scott's legislative priorities in representing the state of Florida.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):
Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
South Florida Agricultural Foundation

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
N/A

Address 2 (Optional)

Phone Number
2024319763

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
○ Yes ● No

Address
P. O. Box 942

City, State Zip
Loxahatchee, Florida 33470 United States

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

The South Florida Agricultural Foundation has been sponsoring congressional staff trips since 2017. We host 2 trips each year, with the exceptions being in 2020 and 2023 (due to gov't shutdown) and 2025 with Congressional calendar changes.

Educational Activities

The Foundation provides agricultural information to local school and civic groups and awards scholarships to students pursuing agricultural studies at local schools.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyists.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

- ☑ I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- ☑ I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.
- ☑ I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

None Entered

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

The trip provides congressional staffers a chance to see the operations of farms that produce sugarcane, sweet corn, green beans, rice and many other crops for up to 180 million Americans during the winter and spring months every year. Staffers will spend their days touring farms, talking to local farmers, seeing sugarcane throughout the the entire cycle- crop, harvesting, refining and all the behind the scenes work that goes into manufacturing and packaging. They see celery and other in-season crops being harvested and packaged in the fields. They will also see how the byproducts of sugarcane are used to produce eco-friendlv food storage containers.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

The mission of the South Florida Agricultural Foundation is to provide educational and stewardship opportunities within the South Florida agricultural industry, including sugarcane, citrus, sweet corn, celery, rice and other local crops in an area which ranks in the top 10 in the nation for agricultural revenue. Staffers will learn about water issues, farm bill issues and are able to talk to and see how it impacts our part of the country.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

● Yes ○ No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

● The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

● The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

● No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

○ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip

○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

● The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip

○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

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Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
04/07/2026 @ 07:59 AM

Trip End Date/Time:
04/09/2026 @ 09:30 PM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

◯ Yes ◉ No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $598.33 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$253.33
Note Round Trip airfare from DCA to PBI		
Ground Transportation	Coach	$320.00
Note Daily bus transportation for the duration of the tour.		
Other	N/A	$25.00
Note airboat transportation on Lake Okeechobee		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $280.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
04/07/2026	04/09/2026	Roland Martin Marina	Clewiston	Florida	United States	2	$140.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $200.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
04/07/2026	$0.00	$23.00	$36.00	$5.00	**$64.00**	Clewiston	Florida	United States	No
04/08/2026	$22.00	$23.00	$36.00	$5.00	**$86.00**	Clewiston	Florida	United States	No
04/09/2026	$22.00	$23.00	$0.00	$5.00	**$50.00**	Clewiston	Florida	United States	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $0.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes

There are no miscellaneous expenses.

Additional Attachments

Document Name

There are no additional attachments.

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: Ag-Venture!

Travel Date(s): April 7-9, 2026

Travel Destination(s): Belle Glade, Clewiston and West Palm Beach, FL

Sponsor: South Florida Agricultural Foundation

Danielle Duffy
(printed name of sponsor representative)

Executive Director
(title)

Danielle Duffy
(signature of sponsor representative)

2/23/26
(date)

South Florida Agricultural Foundation

April 2026 Staffer Invite List

Reason for invite: Most are referrals from previous tour (staff) attendees or listed as working on ag policy or related communications issues.

Adams	Joshua
Albert	Bryson
Albiani	Katy
Allen	Henry
Altendorf	John
Alvero	Matt
Anderson Becker	Alyssa
Araboghli	Sami
Arguello	Hector
Ball	Bill
Barcley	Kate
Barnes	Zach
Beckelman	Yuri
Beninga	Ashlynne
Bennett	Derron
Berardo	Jason
Bierworth	Ashlee
Blair	Alex
Brady	Matt
Brooks	Rodney
Cargile	Clara
Chanock	Alexander
Chatham	Laurel Lee
Choi	Anica
Clark	Ian
Clark-Murrieta	Daniela
Clarkin	Matt
Clifford	Ken
Costa	Janie
Cunningham	Chezney
Decker	Brad
Deiro	Sofia

Delaney	Josh
Deusenberry	Megan
Donnelly	Ryan
Duncan	Josh
Dwyer	William
Dwyer	Kaitlyn
Dynneson	Faith
Evich	Jordan
Farrell	Stefanie
Fernandez	Hayley
Fisher	Halee
Foltz	Jonathan
Friedman	Aanya
Ganter	Jack
Garnes	Allen
Gary	Gabe
Gattman	Jacob
Gellman	Josh
Gilkey	Kyler
Graff	Justina
Han	Jihan
Harberts	Eli
Harrison	Nicole
Heekin	Jack
Herrera	Patrick
Hilkin	Jake
Hoffman	Landon
Howey	Preston
Huang	Alex
Incerto	Jacquelyn
Ischiropoulos	Dean
Jindal	Ninit
Johnston	Emma
Johnston	Ross
Kirkland	Hunter
Kolb	John Mark
Koncar	Steve
Lanclos	Kent
Lane	Nate
LeBlanc	Johanna

Lee	Shine
Levins	Tyler
Long	Jack
Love	Mikhail
Malen	Chris
Martin	Michael
Martin	Mike
May	Mason
McCann	Chris
McCleaf	Anna
McWilliams	Bryce
Mohamed	Litton
Monach	Antwoin
Monroe	Nathanael
Montoney-Crawford	Josie
Morales	Alex
Morley	Katie
Mullon	Meghan
Newman	William
Nicholson	Joe
Nolan	Blake
Ohnstad	Mason
Orr	Matt
Parish	Braden
Phillips	Ray
Phillips	Luke
Pitts	Lacy
Podliska	Rick
Porter	Addison
Powell	Reed
Powell	Jared
Pritchett	Hanna
Rabuse	Christina
Ray	Trevor
Reynolds	Blaine
Rizk	Benjamin
Roberts	Zach
Rogers	Sam
Rollinson	Dana

Rossman	Julia
Rusthoven	Mark
Schaedler	Allison
Schroeder	Robert
Seifert	Peter
Shea	Mitch
Shelton	Ashley
Shin	Elliott
Shinholster	Michael
Simmons	Colton
Simmons	Brown
Sims	Darcy
Smith	Trevor
Smith	Sean
So	Hannah
Spurr	Hannah
Stagno	Laura
Stewart	Nick
Stidham	Kaley
Tonsager	Josh
Trivett	Acree
Truxal	Charles
Turner	Will
Urbin	Nick
Valenti	Bea
Von Stein	Jesse
Wagener	Rob
Wallace	Nikki
Walters	Elizabeth
Weidlich	Zach
Weissert	Katie
West	Sam
White	Bubba
White	Saisha
White	Trevor
White	Emma
Whitmore	John
Wickenhauser	Calla
Winfrey	David
Wojcicki	Sam

Wolgram	Kelsey
Woodward	Joshua
Yamamura	Justin
Young	Julianne
Zhen	Chris

South Florida Agricultural Foundation (SFAF)
ITINERARY
2026 Congressional Staff Tour

April 7-9, 2026

***Note: All food/catering/transportation/lodging is paid for by the South Florida Agricultural Foundation**

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

7:59 – 10:33 AM	Depart Washington-Reagan National Airport on American Airlines Flight AA2499
10:33 – 11:15 AM	Arrive Palm Beach International Airport. SFAF group leaders will meet guests at the West Palm Beach airport, locate luggage, board bus. Guests will be transported by bus for the rest of the trip.
11:55—12:45 PM	Travel to Belle Glade. As bus drives through the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), a presentation of points of interest along the way include the Sem-Chi Rice Plant, Florida Crystals sugarcane fields, the Sugarcane Growers Cooperative Mill and lettuce, sweet corn and sugarcane fields at various stages of growth. Also, a video presentation about water issues pertaining to the lake and how sugarcane is grown and harvested will be shown during the ride. Boxed lunches will be provided and eaten en route.
12:45 – 2:15 PM	Tour of DUDA Farms led by Sam Jones, General Manager, showcasing the farming operations where leafy greens, lettuce and other produce is grown. The group will go out into the field and observe the harvesting of lettuce while discussing food safety and workforce issues.
2:15 – 2:30 PM	Travel to TKM, also in Belle Glade.
2:30 – 3:15 PM	Tour of TKM Bengard Farm led by Ethan Basore, Farm Manager, showcasing the farming operations where leafy greens, lettuce and other produce is grown. The group will go out into the field and observe the harvesting of lettuce while discussing food safety and workforce issues.
3:15 – 3:30 PM	Board bus.
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Depart TKM to travel to Roland Martin Marina & Resort in Clewiston.
4:00 – 5:45 PM	Check into the Roland Martin Marina & Resort, prepare for dinner presentation.
5:45 – 6:00 PM	Depart hotel, drive to Hilliard Brothers
6:00—6:45 PM	Tour Hillard Brothers to learn about the Cattle industry in Florida and the challenges they face presented by Lindsey Wiggins and Tripp Whidden. Then head to Swindle Farm for dinner.
6:45 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner at Swindle Farm. This is an actual working sugarcane farm owned by an independent grower. Meet local city and county elected officials during working reception and dinner. The mayor of Clewiston, James Pittman, will speak on how important agriculture is to the financial prosperity of the city. The county and city commissioners present: Ramon Iglesias, Mali Gardner, Hillary Hyslope and Jason Williams, will discuss the effects of Covid on the agricultural community and other issues rural areas are facing. Short presentation of dairy farming in the area by Sutton Rucks of Milking R Dairy and how the recent laws have affected their business. Approximately one and a half hours will be spent on the listed activities and presentations.
9:00 PM	Return to the Roland Marin Marina & Resort.

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast in the lobby and board bus.
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Depart the Roland Martin Marina & Resort to travel to sugarcane fields.
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Tour Sugarcane Field operations and harvesting, Scott Berden, Precision Ag Manager with U. S. Sugar, will discuss compliance of worker protection standards, burning regulations, pesticide and herbicide issues and other Federal regulations that have an impact on the cost and procedures of farming sugarcane. Jarad Plair, Asst. Director of Farm Operations, will explain how drones are used in the agricultural fields. A stop will be made at a pump station where Richard Sanchez, Director of Farm Operations and Land Mgt, will present and discuss water quality standards.
12:00 – 12:45 PM	Lunch at Clewiston Youth Center provided by SFAF. Ardis Hammock, with Frierson Farms, will give a presentation on the American Farm Policy & Trade, discussing the farm bill, NAFTA and other trade issues.
12:45 – 1:00 PM	Travel to U. S. Sugar Mill and Refinery, Clewiston.
1:00 – 3:00 PM	Arrive at U. S. Sugar Corp. Mill and Refinery for tour of sugarcane processing procedures led by Brannan Thomas, Dir. of Community Relations. Discussion will include compliance with OSHA and federal air quality standards, while the refinery will focus on FDA food safety and labeling issues. Tour of packaging facilities.
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Depart mill, travel to the Roland Martin Marina & Resort.
3:15 – 4:30 PM	Arrive at hotel, prepare for citrus tour and dinner presentation.
4:30 – 4:45 PM	Depart hotel, drive to Southern Gardens Citrus in Clewiston.
4:45 – 5:45 PM	Southern Gardens Citrus grove stop, Jim Snively, Vice President of Citrus Groves, will discuss citrus greening, hurricanes and other issues destructive to citrus crops, and how they work with the USDA's APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) to develop new citrus varieties and combat citrus diseases.
5:45 – 6:00 PM	Travel to Dunwody Lodge
6:00 – 6:30 PM	Arrive at Dunwody Lodge in Clewiston for welcome reception and opportunity to speak one-on-one with local farmers who grow sugarcane, corn, green beans, kale and broccoli.
6:30 – 9:00 PM	Working dinner where SFAF Board President Ardis Hammock will introduce the independent farmers present (Nicky Perez, Donnie Lundy, Carl Perry, Luigi Trotta, Justin Sobie, and Alan Hammock) and each will speak 5-10 minutes on the history of their farm and the produce they grow, showcasing the diversity of crops produced in the area. Staffers will be formally introduced to all the farmers. SFAF will purchase steaks cooked by Hendry County Cattlemen's Association who will discuss the importance of the cattle industry in Florida. Approximately two hours will be spent on the listed activities and presentations.
9:00 PM	Return to the Roland Martin Marina & Resort.

Thursday, April 9, 2026

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast in the lobby and board bus.
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Depart the Roland Martin Marina & Resort to travel to Belle Glade to Slim's Fish Camp.
9:00 – 11: 30 AM	Depart from dock on airboat for tour of Lake Okeechobee; Boats will stop out on the lake where Ernie Barnett, a water resource specialist that assists the agriculture industry in the Lake Okeechobee and Everglades watershed in matters related to Flood Protection, Water Supply and Stormwater Management, will explain the relationship between the lake and agriculture, discuss water quality and quantity issues and how EAA farmers must comply with federal water regulations. He will address questions from staffers. Airboats will return back to the dock.
11:30 – 12:00 PM	Drive to the EREC in Belle Glade.
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Arrive at EREC. Working lunch provided by SFAF purchased from local farms. Introduction of panel of farmer members of Florida Farm Bureau moderated by Alleigh Reitz from Everglades Farm Equipment and a Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau board member, and Sam Phares, District 8 Director, Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Each farm member on the panel will explain an item of importance in their farming process. Farm members participating are Matt Hoffman (Sugar Cane Growers Co-Op, Chuck Obern (C&B Farms), Keith Wedgworth (Wedgworth), Brad Phares (Lazy JP Ranch), Jamie Fussell (FFVA), Buddy McKinstry (JEM Farms), Mike Schlechter (Everglades Farm Equipment) and Olivia Pope (Pope Farms).
1:00 – 2:45 PM	One-on-one roundtable discussion with the farmers representing sweet corn, green beans, peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables, nursery operations and agricultural research. Discussion will include issues with federal pest management regulations, H2A worker programs, wage and labor compliance, NAFTA and how farming is impacted by state and federal issues.
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Board bus to depart.
3:00 – 3:45 PM	Travel to Bedner's Farm Fresh Market, downtown West Palm Beach.
3:45 – 4:15 PM	Marie Bedner will lead the tour of Bedner's Farm Fresh Market, one of the few remaining family owned and operated farmer's markets in South Florida, bringing fresh produce from the farm, grown right outside their back door. Also, watch a brief presentation of the new facility the Bedner's provide for their H2A workers.
4:15 – 5:00 PM	Board bus, depart for airport
5:00 – 5:30 PM.	Travel to Palm Beach International Airport
7:07 PM	Depart PBI for DCA on flight AA2497
9:30 PM	Arrive at DCA.